



# NEWS RELEASE

**STATE BOARD  
OF EQUALIZATION**

450 N Street  
Sacramento  
California 95814

**BILL LEONARD**  
Member, BOE  
Second District

**TIMOTHY W. BOYER**  
Interim Executive Director

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**BILL LEONARD ANNOUNCES  
FIRST QUARTER 2003 TAXABLE SALES FIGURES**

Bill Leonard, Member, State Board of Equalization announced that taxable sales in California rose during the first quarter of 2003, marking the third consecutive increase in quarterly growth. Transactions subject to the sales and use tax totaled \$104.5 billion during the first quarter of 2003, an increase of \$3.5 billion or 3.5 percent from the first quarter of 2002.

In constant dollar terms, taxable sales increased by 2.5 percent over the same quarter a year ago. The California Taxable Sales Deflator measured a slight inflation rate of 0.9 percent for the first quarter of 2003.

Retail stores posted taxable sales of \$72.1 billion, a 5.5 percent increase over the same period a year ago. Retailers of durable goods experienced a 3.2 percent increase, while non-durable goods' retailers showed an 8.0 percent increase.

In the durable goods category, new car dealers posted taxable sales of \$12.9 billion during the first quarter, a 1.6 percent increase over the same period a year ago. Construction contractors improved over the same period a year ago with taxable transactions of \$4.0 billion, an increase of 2.1 percent. Additionally, retailers of building materials registered continuing growth in sales. Building material dealers posted taxable sales of \$6.2 billion, up 6.6 percent from a year earlier.

Gasoline consumption decreased by 3.6 percent and measured 3.6 billion gallons. Additionally, the average price of gasoline during the first quarter was \$1.722, a 35.5 percent increase from the previous year's price. Service stations total sales yielded \$6.6 billion, resulting in a 30.3 percent increase over the same period last year.

While retail stores' sales experienced increased growth of 5.5 percent during the first quarter 2003, business and personal services taxable transactions contracted slightly, showing \$5.0 billion or a decrease of 1.3 percent over the same period a year ago. Additionally, all other outlets, comprised primarily of manufacturing and wholesale businesses, saw their taxable transactions decline 0.7 percent on \$27.4 billion.

*(First Quarter 2003 lists of Statewide Taxable Sales by Type by [Business](#), Taxable Sales by [County](#) and Taxable Sales by [City](#) )*